

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-13 (cancelled).

14. (new) An engineered yeast cell, comprising a transgene encoding one or more amyloidogenic proteins or mutant(s) thereof, wherein said yeast strain is characterized in that it lacks a functional caspase gene.

15. (new) The engineered yeast cell according to claim 14, wherein the one or more amyloidogenic proteins or mutant(s) thereof are encoded by a minigene.

16. (new) The engineered yeast cell according to claim 14, wherein said caspase gene is the yeast caspase gene Yca1.

17. (new) The engineered yeast cell according to claim 14, wherein said amyloidogenic protein is alpha-synuclein.

18. (new) A method for identifying a compound which influences the toxic effect of amyloidogenic proteins in yeast, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an engineered yeast strain, comprising a transgene or a minigene

encoding one or more amyloidogenic proteins or mutant(s) thereof, wherein said yeast strain is characterized in that it lacks a functional caspase gene,

- b) contacting the yeast strain obtained in step (a) with said compound, and
- c) determining the phenotypic effect of said compound on said yeast.

19. (new) The method according to claim 18 wherein step b) is performed in a medium comprising metal ions.

20. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein said caspase gene is yeast Yca1.

21. (new) The method according to claims 18, wherein said amyloidogenic protein is alpha-synuclein.

22. (new) A method for identifying the factors involved in the cytotoxicity of amyloidoses, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an engineered yeast strain, comprising a transgene or a minigene encoding one or more amyloidogenic proteins or mutant(s) thereof, wherein said yeast strain is characterized in that it lacks a functional caspase gene, and
- b) investigating the factors which affect cytotoxicity in said engineered yeast strain.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the amyloidoses causes Parkinson's disease or Lewy body disease.